PROTECTION OF INTELLIGENCE SOURCES AND METHODS

- 1. The Director of Central Intelligence is charged by law with the protection of intelligence sources and methods from unauthorised disclosures.
- 2. There have been a number of episodes wherein unauthorized disclosure of intelligence sources and methods have revealed to other countries our techniques and have resulted in increased security safeguards which have either dried up or made much more difficult our intelligence collection. Unfortunately one of these episodes is of recent vintage.
- 3. On 23 August 1962 I transmitted to you, the Secretary of State and the Attorney General a proposal for better securing intelligence sources and methods. This proposal included a recommendation that all personnel with access to sensitive intelligence be required to report all contacts with the press and record all items discussed, a system which has been in effect many years in CIA, which goes even farther and requires clearance in advance for contacts with the press. The system was put into effect briefly by DOD and State during the Cuban crisis with good results.
- 4. I propose that we revive our study of this problem and advise the Executive Committee of the National Security Council of what we plan to do. I recognize that DOD and State have political problems which must be considered, but I see no reason why officers with access to sensitive intelligence should be permitted to discuss this information with the press any more than we would permit smoking among explosives.

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FILE:

These are carbons of papers typed up from Mr. handwritten notes. Mr. has the originals of all of these.

This all ties in with the letter to McNamara which has not been signed and which very likely will NEVER be signed. Keep the whole package together in case it is called for.

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